

## CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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## MRS. ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

News of the death of Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox at her home in New Haven yesterday carried a message of sadness to thousands of American homes. Perhaps no woman of recent generations was more universally loved. She was the evangel of happiness and progressive thinking. As a writer, she was peculiarly gifted. She produced voluminously over a long period without becoming stale or tired. She was apparently favored by an inspiration that was perennial. Some of Mrs. Wilcox's poems are classics. But she was equally at her element as a prose writer upon topics of reform, sociology and advanced thought. Although little was generally known of the personality of her consort, who died two or three years ago, the beauty of their domestic life together shines out in her writings. Poems such as "We Two" and others come instantly to mind. Not long after his death, Mrs. Wilcox declared with assurance that she had received messages from her husband in the land of spirits.

In the field of American letters, Mrs. Wilcox made a distinct and honorable place for herself. She wrote along original lines and in a vein of cheery philosophy. She did not seek controversy, but was quite able to take care of herself if one developed. She was a decided votary of love. Her writings made a pleasing impression on those who read them. In the passing of Mrs. Wilcox, America loses its sweetest singer.

The Red Cross and the anti-tuberculosis campaign are both worthy of your patronage.

Knoxville may put its eggs in the recall basket if it wants to, but Memphis prefers the outer for her.

Senator Polinder is the only hat in the ring, but there are several around the border.

As the last minute, it has been discovered that wartime prohibition is unconstitutional.

"Who's running the U. S. A.?" inquires Gov. Robertson, of Oklahoma. We are just waiting to see, governor.

Not to be outdone by Ohio and New Jersey, Kentucky will vote on statewide prohibition next Tuesday.

It is apparent that several congressmen are not so averse to association with kings as is Mayor Hoan.

President Selts has signed the treaty on behalf of Austria. What is the matter with the applause?

In a few things are found copy-turvy tomorrow morning, just blame it on the coal strike.

Postoffice employees have decided that they will use some other method than the strike to redress their grievances.

With cotton selling at 15 cents a pound, it begins to look as if poor folks would be compelled to wear silk.

The senate wants to know to what extent, if any, that Canada has been taking over the railroads in this country.

Senator Sherman's declaration that he never prays was apparently superfluous. He had not been suspected of it.

Miles Polinder was credited to Montgomery county by the Nashville Banner, the other day, but it later developed that he is from Memphis.

There will inevitably be differences of opinion over the merits of the coal strike. But quarrelling over them will not remove them.

The town of Nitro, W. Va., was sold by Uncle Sam to a single purchaser, which ought to obviate any discussions over fixing the tax rate.

It might not be easy to elect Lady Astor to office in her native Virginia. But for all that, she will take a fling with the English voter.

In Knoxville they are threatening to recall the mayor for being too active in enforcing the law, just about the time the governor of Ohio bounces out of office the mayor of Canton for not being active enough.

The Philadelphia Record declares that it often happens that a man who professes discontent is unable to give an intelligent explanation of what he is discontented about. Haven't you noticed it?

"American Stand on Fiume Problem Still Unchanged."—Headline which means, perhaps, that while D'Annunzio monopolizes about all the standing or sitting room in Fiume, there is still standing room on the problem.

If Atty. Gen. Palmer has the correct street address of each of the bombing artists of the country, it is probably unnecessary to remind him that the present is not a good time to relax his vigil.

Gen. Crowder passes the buck to Gen. Marsh for urging the death penalty for soldiers later pardoned by the president, but both of them urge the retention intact of the archaic and autocratic army regulations which, on account of numerous inhuman verdicts, have aroused such a flood of popular resentment.

## PUBLIC'S INTEREST PARAMOUNT.

President Lewis, of the United Mine Workers of America, is shocked and aggrieved that the whole power of the United States government should be put at the disposition of the mine operators, so as to give them protection in the operation of their mines.

This isn't because of any favor the government has for the operators. In times past and now the government has very vigorously controlled the prices at which coal was sold. The government of the United States is merely looking out for the public. Miners and operators are insignificant compared with the American people. The miners' strike threatens the whole warp and woof of American comfort and prosperity. It would, if successful, almost certainly close down many industries and thus deprive of employment millions of workers, on whose pay envelopes millions of mouths depend for food. It might stop the operation of our railroads and deprive our people of the facilities of travel or of the shipment of commodities. Not only coal for the fireside, but food for the table in every cottage might be affected.

The only way to visualize this situation fairly is to think of what would be the attitude of the government if the operators of the United States had determined to close every mine on Nov. 1. Does not President Lewis know that all the power of the United States government would have been exercised to keep the mines open and the miners employed, so that the coal supply of the United States might be continued? Had the operators united in such an ultimatum to the miners, threatening the closing of the mines and a general lockout, the president of the miners' union would now be in Washington demanding action to keep the mines open.

Now the government is taking just the steps that are needful in the public interest.

"The greatest good to the greatest number" was Jefferson's wise maxim and our government is still operated on that principle.

## WHITHER DRIFTING?

The prophet, as well as the poet, is abroad in the land. The approaching coal strike and other evidences of unrest are to him peculiarly portentous. His numerous types—for there are many of him—are not all ways in agreement upon the fate which awaits us, but nearly all seem to think we are on the eve of fundamental changes of great importance. Predictions are, of course, colored more or less, sometimes shaped entirely, by the interests, predilections and environments of those who indulge them. The people at large, however, are fully aware of the seriousness of the situation.

By some, it is insisted that the steel strike, the coal strike and other strikes now being agitated are merely incidents of an irrepressible conflict the issue of which will witness the obliteration of trade unionism or the complete dictation of the proletariat as in Russia. Others insist that a revolution impends, without indicating the probable outcome. From the capitalist standpoint, it is contended that organized labor has become intoxicated by the success of its demands during the war period to such an extent that, led on by radical agitators, nothing will satisfy it but the absolute control and wrecking of industry. This view pictures capital fighting for its life.

On behalf of organized labor, it is claimed that the fight in progress is for justice and an equitable share in the products and profits of industry—that this has not been assured in the wage advances granted which, it is also insisted, have not kept pace with the cost of living. A stout denial is interposed of any purpose to inaugurate bolshevism or communism, though it is confessed that some would-be leaders are infected with the extremist doctrine. It seems to be the impression among labor leaders generally that failure to make progress in labor's campaign is, in fact, a loss of ground. In other words, that labor cannot stand still without retrograding.

Such differences of viewpoint almost inevitably bring about a conflict. Each side ascribes sinister motives to the other which are, perhaps, in most instances, unwarranted. These take hold, however, because neither side has as yet been very clear in explaining its ultimate purpose. The capitalist offers profit-sharing which may, or may not be comprehensive, according to elaboration or restriction. Labor demands collective bargaining and the right to strike without explaining the end for which these means are to be employed. In making these demands, labor seems to be assuming the attitude that even if it should outline a constructive program, it could not bring about its adoption or maintain it peacefully.

Disinterested persons are not much impressed by either of these contentions. They reason that much more progress toward industrial peace would result if both sides would have more to say about the position they are willing to occupy in the world's work and less about how they are going to force their way to such position. If capital is willing to share the products of industry with the worker, the scheme ought to be made clear in its details, with a proffer to safeguard its operation by legal enactment. On the other hand, if labor is not intent upon the destruction of capital, it ought to state its demands plainly and stand ready to be bound by them, even in a legally responsible way.

The people are more or less tolerant of the frequent quarrels of capital and labor, so long as their own rights are respected. But they cannot remain indifferent in the presence of a contention the result of which threatens to starve or freeze them to death. It would be contrary to the first law of nature for them to do so. And it must have been observed that there is a growing indifference being manifested toward the comfort and convenience of the public. It is this situation which is breeding a perceptible impatience for

is now serving his first term in congress as representative of the Fifth congressional district. The congressman, who is better known in this section than in his brother, is recognized as a hard student and, it is predicted, will make a place for himself in our nation's councils. From the degree of confidence reposed in the new appointee, he is evidently a similar type of man. The appointment is a distinct compliment to Tennessee. Mr. Davis first came into prominence as Mr. Hoover's assistant.

The British railway strike cost approximately \$50,000,000 and the American steel strike \$40,000,000. Still one sometimes hears complaints of the cost of living.

Perhaps nothing else has aroused sentiment against collective bargaining so much as the disposition to abrogate contracts and inaugurate sympathetic strikes.

Every Nation Should Be Included.  
Editor The News:  
I have noted with interest the attitude of some people towards Senator Shields. Some good brother in your state's paper was simply stating his own view.

And for that reason I would like to say a few words, not that I do not feel that the Tennessee senate is not capable of defending the position that it has taken, but because I feel that there is a man in the senate that I had rather trust with a delicate problem than any one else it is usually a Tennessee matter.

For as matter of fact they usually make good. Now I want to say in the outset, that I would not think much of the Tennessee senate if it were to jump at any proposition that was handed to him without first looking at the merits of the question.

Now I would like for some one to inform me if the American people have had a fair chance to decide on this issue and whether or not they are not afraid to risk the judgment of the American people on any question if they have sufficient time to study a matter.

And for that reason I cannot for the life of me see where the senator in question is committing such a crime in the position he has taken, while I do not claim to be familiar with the fundamental principles of the league of nations, I take it for granted that the object of the document is to preserve peace. This being the case, it goes without saying that all the peace loving people would be in favor of it, but if I am not hereby fooled the original idea was to include all nations.

"If I am wrong in this it is an honest error, but I cannot get away from the idea that we offered to bring our enemies as an inducement to sign an armistice. This was in the form of a treaty prepared by our president. Germany accepted it, in fact they grabbed it like a hungry bear would grab a steamed minnow, but when the hook stuck them they tried to jump out of the water, but Lloyd George and Clemenceau were Johnnie on the spot to take up the slack in the line so that there was no chance to jump.

Now this is not an appeal for Germany, for I sometimes think that it would have been better if we had let Germany make the job while he was at it, for no question is ever settled until it is settled right, but we chose to let it differ until the job was done. Now if we could have carried out our original intentions, and have formed a league of nations, we would have embraced the whole world, then I would be at a loss to know why any man could have objected to it. We were on the brink of a new earth. We could see visions of a new world in which everybody loved their neighbors. We had forgiven Germany and offered her assistance. Now the question arises is the United States big enough to let Germany make the job while he was at it, for no question is ever settled until it is settled right, but we chose to let it differ until the job was done. 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